Weeding out of Old Railway Records

2591. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received letters in June, 1996 regarding obsolete and unimportant records lying at the railway stations/offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to weed them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) (b) Two letters, one each from Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MP and Shri Shshi Prakash, ex. MP. suggesting that reservation slips/ charts and other registers except those pertaining to accident should be kept only for a period of one month have been received.

(c) As per the extent instructions, all records pertaining to reservation, are preserved for six months. In those cases, where action is under process, these are preserved till the finalisation of the case. The preservation of these records for six months is considered necessary to deal with complaints received from travelling public regarding reservations etc., cases of refunds, verification of leave travel concession, Military warrants etc.

Reckless Fishing by Trawlers and Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels During Monsoon

2592. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reckless fishing by trawlers and deep-sea fishing vessels during monsoon have depleted marine resources alarmingly;

(b) the steps taken to ban fishing during monsoon season in the Indian Territorial Waters and Exclusinve Economic Zone to facilitate undisturbed fish breeding;

(c) the measures taken to maintain the balance of marine life; and

(d) the steps taken for violation of ban by the fishing traders and exporters?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The marine fisheries in India comprise a host of fin and shellfish species having varying periods of breeding which is not restricted to monsoon months only. However, the Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRA) enacted by various maritime states empower them to [illegible] notification to prohibit fishing for a particular period, including monsoon season. Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have banned mechanised fishing during monsoon season in their respective territorial waters, while Government of Kerala has banned bottom trawling by mechanised vessels during monsoon period. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also imposed a ban this year on deep sea fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coasts of Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra during monsoon seasoon at par with similar ban imposed by these State Governments in respect of fishing by trawlers in the territorial waters. To maintain the balance of marine life, various maritime States have taken measures like mesh regulation in the fishing nets, establishment of marine parks and bio-reserve, etc. Further, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institue (MCFRI) unde the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also advised the maritime States from time to time to protect and conserve fish habitats and fishery resources.